DART Highlights Passenger Facility Improvements in Wilmington

Delaware Transit Corporation (DTC), operating <u>DART First State</u>, is continuing to invest in passenger facilities in Wilmington and will be replacing and installing new shelters on King Street beginning this week and continuing over the next month. The new shelters will be located at King and 3rd, King and 6th, King and 8th, King and 9th, and King and 10th. In addition, shelters will be installed on South Market at South Shipley, the old B&O railroad building, and North French at 9th Street. These improvements total almost \$116,000, and DTC also has another \$300,000 in city bus stop improvements planned for this fiscal year.

"Following recent bus route changes in downtown Wilmington, we heard and listened to concerns about the need for additional benches and shelters for our riders, and that's the reason we are making these important investments," said Governor John Carney. "We believe that affordable public transit and transportation infrastructure improvements are key to investing in our city and Wilmington's downtown area. Over the next several years, we will invest \$250 million in transportation improvements in and around the city, including in new transit improvements, the new Christina River bridge, and the transit center adjacent to the Biden train station. These are important investments that will strengthen our city, help create jobs, and improve transit in and around Wilmington."

Secretary of Transportation Jennifer Cohan added, "Providing cover from the elements will improve comfort and convenience for all of our riders along these routes and are another example of the improvements we continue to make in

Wilmington."

"We are committed to providing safe, efficient, and reliable transit services in Wilmington and across Delaware," said Delaware Transit Corporation CEO John Sisson. "We understand that the strength and vitality of Wilmington is key to the health and success of the state, and these improvements are a result of the feedback we've received from our riders in the city."

Over the past eight months, DTC has invested \$120,000 in passenger facility improvements within the city, including the installation of new bus shelters along French, 9th, 10th, and Washington Streets; a second shelter at the Wilmington Amtrak Station bus stop and at the heavily used stop on King Street at 3rd Street.

In addition, DTC has secured a \$2.45 million federal grant for improvements along Orange Street, including the plan to convert the current one-way, northbound street into a two-way street by adding a southbound bus lane from 10th to 4th Streets. This project, brought forth to the community through Wilmington Initiatives, comprised of DTC, DelDOT, City of Wilmington and the Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO), is currently being finalized and is a key piece of the infrastructure improvements that will support an optimal transit system, including ADA-compliant bus stops and pedestrian access with new bus shelters and amenities.

This fall, ground will be broken on the new Wilmington Transit Center near the Joseph R. Biden Jr. Train Station. The transit center, set to open next year, will feature customer amenities including an indoor, seated waiting area, access to restrooms, USB charging stations, Wi-Fi, and vending machines.